

REMARKS

This supplemental Response is being presented to assert that the reference Tartal is not prior art to the Applicants' application. No claim amendments have been made.

On page 7 of the Office Action mailed on November 18, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, 6, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0039712, to Tartal (hereinafter Tartal) in view of Official Notice.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Tartal publication is not prior art to Applicants' application, as the filing date of Applicants' application (January 26, 2001) is earlier in time than the filing date of the Tartal publication (June 19, 2001). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of the claims be removed, as Tartal is not prior art to Applicants' application.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the USPTO is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 3/24/05

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